

UNITED STATES  
APPENDIX B

Declaration -- Original Application

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of the invention entitled:

ANGLED GRIPPING JOINT COMBINATION FOR SUPPORT STRUCTURES

which is described and claimed in the attached specification;

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Sec. 1.56(a).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above;

I do not know and do not believe that the invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my invention thereof;

I do not know and do not believe that the invention was ever patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application;

I do not know and do not believe that the invention was in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application;

I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the examination of this application; the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Sec 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also

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Phone: 250-265-3795

identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s) (if any)

none

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States code, Sec. 120 of any United States applications listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Sec. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Sec. 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

none

Full Names of inventor:

Family Name	First Given Name	Second Given Name
Nichol	James	W.

Residence and Citizenship:

City	State or Foreign Country	Country of Citizenship
Nakusp,	B.C.	Great Britain

Send correspondence to: James W. Nichol, c/o Paul D. Gornall, Barrister & Solicitor, 960 - 355 Burrard St., Vancouver, B.C., V6C 2G8, Canada

Direct telephone calls to: (604) 681-7932

I hereby declare that all the statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Signature of inventor

James W. Nichol  
James W. Nichol

Date: May 12, 1998

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b) - INDEPENDENT SOLE INVENTOR

As below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent sole inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fee under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled

ANGLED GRIPPING JOINT COMBINATION FOR SUPPORT STRUCTURES

described in the specification filed herewith.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and are under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

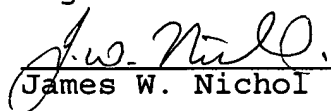
Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or are under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

[x] none

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all the statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Signature of inventor

  
James W. Nichol

May 12, 1998

STATEMENT OF PRIOR ART

James W. Nichol  
c/o Paul D. Gornall, Barrister & Solicitor  
960 - 355 Burrard St.  
Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6C 2G8

May 12, 1998

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Re: inventor: James W. Nichol  
Title: ANGLED GRIPPING JOINT COMBINATION FOR SUPPORT STRUCTURES  
U.S. patent application

Please be advised that I am aware of the following patents  
that may be relevant to this application:

United States no.'s 4,238,001  
4,515,243  
4,681,187  
5,170,861  
5,215,162  
5,269,394  
5,351,785

Respectfully submitted,

  
James W. Nichol

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